

### **REMARKS**

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the remarks and analysis contained in the Office Action. Applicant is especially grateful for the indication of allowed and allowable subject matter.

Applicant has corrected the typographical error in Claim 21 and included the subject matter of claim 22 into claim 21 by the amendments above. Claim 20 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 25.

The Examiner indicated that the subject matter of claim 25 was allowable. As claim 22 contains substantially the same subject matter, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 21 as amended is now allowable.

Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are allowable. The new claims 31-33 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by the EP 0103162 reference, that was applied against some of the claims in the most recent Office Action. That reference teaches an arrangement where one of the strands of the rope 10 provides the designation that is detected by the optical antenna 21-24 in that document. There is no teaching or suggestion for subsequently applying external markings to a load bearing member as recited in claim 31, for example.


Applicant respectfully submits that this case is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will facilitate moving this case forward to being issued, Applicant's representative will be happy to discuss any issues regarding this application and can be contacted at the telephone number indicated below.

Applicant believes that additional fees in the amount of \$350.00 are required for one additional independent claim and three claims in excess of twenty. A check in the amount of \$350.00 is enclosed. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No.

50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

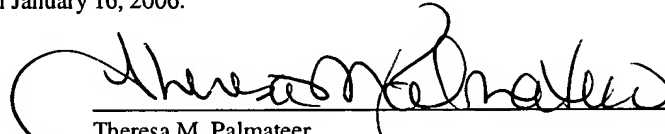
CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS

By:   
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Dated: January 16, 2006

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that the enclosed Response is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 16, 2006.

  
Theresa M. Palmateer